

**RICHARD L. RACKERS**  
**160 Corporate Woods Court**  
**Bridgeton, Missouri 63044**

January 21, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

It is my understanding that the Justice Department has reached a proposed settlement with Microsoft based on the allegations brought against the company for violation of various antitrust laws. It is also my understanding that you are currently accepting public comment on the proposed settlement.

Please consider mine a vote of support for the settlement. While I know that it probably does not go as far as many of Microsoft's competitors would like, I believe that it is a fair and reasonable resolution of the alleged violations. As I understand the matter, the major complaint raised by competitors was the fact that they could not compete in such areas as Internet access within the Windows systems. This settlement allows such competition for the first time by forcing Microsoft to share their proprietary software code with its competitors.

It is important to the economy right now to enter a growth phase and lawsuits such as the Microsoft suit can serve to stifle growth. I believe that the Justice Department and Microsoft have reached a fair and workable resolution, and I hope that you move forward with it as quickly as the law allows. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Richard Rackers